(*b*) The question regarding the basis of valuation is not understood.

(*c*) The report will be printed and then placed on the table.

(*d*) That is the opinion of the actuary.

(*e*) and (*f*) Rs. 1,42,500 had been ear-marked for the fund in 3½ per cent. Government of India securities from the surplus investments of the State. But, from the current year, the Government propose to give 4 per cent. interest out of General Revenues on the balances to the credit of the fund after reserving a small portion of the fund for meeting the current expenses.

(*g*) The question has been referred to the Economic Development Board, for opinion.

Imports and Exports of Travancore.

139. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total annual imports into the State from foreign countries of articles other than those of Indian manufacture and the approximate value thereof?

(*b*) What is the quantity of *copra* annually exported through Arukutty and the approximate value of the same?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Articles of foreign countries are imported into the State in two ways—(1) through the sea customs houses of the State (direct imports, and (2) through Cochin or British India. The articles under the second class come to the State after payment of duty at Cochin or in British India and are admitted free of duty here under the Interportal Trade Convention. No classification as to which of those articles are strictly foreign and which Indian is therefore practicable and no such accounts are maintained in the chowkeys of import. Hence information as to the quantities and value of foreign imports through British India is not available. As regards the quantities and values of direct imports from foreign countries, the member is referred to the paragraphs on Trade in the administration reports of the State.

(*b*) In 1097 the quantity of *copra* exported through the Arukutty chowkey was 2,30,632 cwts. and 32 lb. and its approximate value is Bh. Rs. 51,89,226-7-5. The quantity varies each year.

Service Stamps.

140. MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*):

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the value of the service stamps annually allowed to the several Departments of the State?

(*b*) What portion of these stamps is actually used by the departments during the year? Do they account for the balance, if any, and if so, how?

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to the budget estimate. The figures given therein against Anchal charges for each department represent the value of Service Anchal stamps allowed for the department.

(*b*) Each office purchases the stamps from treasuries according to requirements. If the value of the stamps purchased in any year is below the allotment provided for the purpose, the balance lapses to Government. Registers have to be maintained in all offices for the stock and issue of stamps. Controlling officers are expected to check these registers and the balance stock at their inspection of offices.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether these controlling officers actually check these registers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They are expected to.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is right. Whether they actually check is the question.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Government have no information. I may say that auditing is done by the Outside Audit Department.

Paddy Farm at Tiruppatisaram.

141. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the expenditure incurred during 1097 on account of the maintenance of the paddy farm, Nagercoil (Tiruppatisaram); and

(*b*) the expenditure incurred during 1097 on account of (1) establishment charges and (2) contingencies in that institution?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Rs. 11,497.

(*b*) (1) Establishment charges in 1097 ... Rs. 2,484.
(2) Contingencies in 1097 ... Rs. 9,013.

This includes capital expenditure amounting to Rs. 3,345 on account of the construction of buildings.

Grants to Reading Rooms and Libraries.

142. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastiswaram*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of libraries and reading rooms to which grants-in-aid have been sanctioned and the amount proposed to be given in each case for the year 1098?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The statement * asked for by the member is laid on the table.

* *Vide* Appendix—page 590.

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